

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): A computer-assisted application preparation assisting method for a computer to assist a user in preparing application documents for making a document-based application to a public organization of a country, the method comprising steps operable on the computer for:

acquiring information on a world-wide standard which defines contents that should be described in said document-based application;

acquiring information on a standard unique to each country which is defined in detail in conformity with said world-wide standard;

acquiring information on published applications and examinations unique to each country;

accepting conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared and accepting a user selected country, wherein the conditions and the country are specified by the user;

assisting to prepare said application documents based on said acquired information on the world-wide standard, information on the standard unique to each

country, said information on the published applications and examinations, and said conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared;

examining said application documents to check whether any of said application documents include an item which violates examination criteria for said user selected country;

preparing the application documents for said user selected country to comply with an application format and examination conditions in said user selected country such that none of said application documents include any item violating said examination criteria including a quantity of a component in the application documents;

acquiring information on documents which have been applied in a certain country, and information on documents which have accepted permission from said certain country as a result of examinations after application; and

~~assisting in automatically~~ preparing an application for another country, other than said certain country, with reference to said information on the documents,

wherein said another country, other than said certain country, is a user-specified country.

4. (previously presented): An application preparation assisting method according to claim 3, further comprising:

electronically submitting the prepared application documents to perform electronic application processing.

5. (previously presented): An application preparation assisting method according to claim 3, further comprising:

recording an entire manipulation procedure of an operator for preparing an application with the assistance of application preparation as log information so that the log information can be viewed at a later time.

6-7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended): An application preparation assisting system for assisting a user in preparing application documents for making a document-based application to a public organization of a country, comprising:

means for acquiring and utilizing information on a world-wide standard which defines contents that should be described in said document-based application;

means for acquiring and utilizing information on a standard unique to each country which is defined in detail in conformity with said world-wide standard;

means for acquiring information on published applications and examinations unique to each country; and

means for accepting conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared and accepting a user selected country, wherein the conditions and the country are specified by the user;

means for assisting to prepare said application documents based on said acquired information on the world-wide standard, information on the standard unique to each country, said information on the published applications and examinations, and said conditions associated with the application documents to be prepared;

means for examining said application documents to check whether any of said application documents includes an item which violates examination criteria for said user selected country;

means for preparing the application documents for said user selected country to comply with an application format and examination conditions in said user selected country such that none of said application documents include any item violating said examination criteria including a quantity of a component in the application documents; and

means for acquiring information on documents which have been applied in a certain country, and information on documents which have accepted permission from said certain country as a result examinations after application,

wherein said means for assisting in preparing application documents automatically prepares an application for another country, other than said certain country, with reference to said information on the documents,

wherein said another country, other than said certain country, is a user-specified country.